

BULLARDS FIRE RESTORATION STRATEGY

Planned Program of Work

for

Plumas National Forest

Feather River Ranger District

General Description: Under the Bullards Fire Settlement the Plumas National Forest (PNF) was awarded \$436,500 for Bullards Fire Recovery. The Bullards fire area, is within the Pendola Fire Restoration planning area and was included in the Pendola restoration effort. The Bullards Watershed which was used as the planning area for the Pendola fire is proposed for the Bullards fire as well. The Bullards strategy is to distribute funds into four primary categories: “Survey & Inventory”, “Planning”, “Implementation”, and “Monitoring”. Most of the “Survey & Inventory” tasks, and some of the Planning and Implementation of fuels reduction activities were accomplished under the Pendola Fire Restoration effort. The expectation is to apply at least 85% of the available funds to Implementation of activities for watershed (habitat) restoration such as fuels reduction, reforestation, non-native invasive species control, and wetland development. Also including water storage, road sign replacement, and trail construction.

Timeframe: As stated above much of the **Survey and Inventory** in the Bullards watershed has occurred as a result of the Pendola Fire Restoration effort, however, some follow-up surveys would be required during fiscal year 2017 to support project planning specifically for the Bullards Fire. **Planning** has already begun in FY2017 and **NEPA** would be conducted.

Implementation is planned for 2018 and 2019. **Monitoring** will start in 2018 and continue at least through 2019.

Other Projects which included treated acres within Bullards fire analysis area: Implementation of fuels reduction service work and road improvements, proposed under the **Slapjack Project FEIS** (2006) were completed by FY2015. Fuels reduction treatments and road improvement work proposed under the **Pendola Restoration CE** which was started in FY2011 will be completed by FY2017. Most, if not all, of the handcut/pile portion of the **Pendola Restoration -Oregon Peak CE** was completed by FRRD fire employees in FY2017. Implementation of proposed activities identified under **Pendola Little Oregon Creek CE** (FY2016) will be implemented or awarded by FY2017.

Capacity: The Feather River Ranger District of the PNF has the personnel to accomplish the proposed Bullards Fire Restoration FY2017-FY2019 program of work. It is expected that most of implementation work will be conducted by contract.

Fiscal Year: 2017-2019. Monitoring may continue through 2022, pending funds available. Obligation of all settlement funds will be completed in 2019 unless extensions are specifically requested by PNF and approved by the RO.

FIRE COST SETTLEMENT - PROJECT PROPOSALS

Project Name:	Fuels Reduction				
Project Leader Name:	Jason Vermillion/Joanna Arroyo				
<p>Objective: The primary objective of the proposed activity is to reduce the fuels in the Bullards Fire Restoration area so that when a fire comes through again it is a mosaic of light and medium intensity fire. The main area proposed for fuels reduction is within a California Spotted Owl Protected Activity Center (PAC) which is isolated by private lands. Other objectives are to reduce fuels within potential California red-legged frog habitat affected by the fire and remove non-native Scotch Broom.</p>					
<p>Project justification: The Bullards area is a low elevation (high temperatures and very dry conditions in summer) site with dense undergrowth (fuels) and therefore prime conditions for a high intensity fire. The Bullards Fire regrowth aggravated already existing high fuels conditions within the fire perimeter that leave the area even more susceptible to high intensity fire. A future, high intensity fire could affect the previously implemented restoration projects within the perimeter and the small amount of Forest Service wildlife and aquatic habitat that remains within the fire perimeter.</p> <p>In order to protect investments already made within the fire area, it is important to treat the remaining areas within the perimeter, but also the highly volatile, dense fuels surrounding the fire perimeter (located within one burning period distance from the perimeter).</p>					
<p>Project description: This project proposes several types of treatments for fuels reduction including mastication, hand cut/hand pile, hand cut/grapple pile, pile burn, and under burn.</p> <p>Implementation will be conducted primarily by contracting but some by forest personnel.</p> <p>This is an implementation activity and will be conducted across the planning area.</p> <p>Specifics to be determined post NEPA FY2017).</p>					
<p>Target Accomplishment: Pre-planning estimate is 150 acres.</p> <p>Specifics (locations, number of acres and miles) to be identified by NEPA process (completed FY2017).</p>					
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"> HAB-ENH-TERR (acres) HAB-ENH-STRM (miles) S&W-RSRC-IMP (acres) FOR-VEG-EST (acres) </td> <td style="width: 50%;"> TMBR-TRT (acres) FP-FUELS-WUI (acres) INV PLT-NXWD-FED-AC (acres) T&E ACT-COMPLT (#s) </td> </tr> </table>		HAB-ENH-TERR (acres) HAB-ENH-STRM (miles) S&W-RSRC-IMP (acres) FOR-VEG-EST (acres)	TMBR-TRT (acres) FP-FUELS-WUI (acres) INV PLT-NXWD-FED-AC (acres) T&E ACT-COMPLT (#s)		
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<p>Monitoring and evaluation: See monitoring as listed on Table 1. Specifics (protocols, standards, evaluation, etc.) would be identified by NEPA process (completed FY2017).</p>					

Project Name:	Non-native Invasive Species - Scotch Broom Control
Project Leader Name:	Lawrence Janeway
Objective:	Control Scotch broom, a non-native invasive plant species, and allow for native plant species growth.
Project justification:	High intensity fire removed native vegetation allowing the non-native invasive species, Scotch broom, to get established within the Bullards Fire Recovery project area. Fire suppression actions could have spread the broom as well.
Project description:	<p>Pulling small Scotch broom plants by hand using a special tool, and cut and treat larger plants with herbicide.</p> <p>Implementation will be conducted by Forest Service personnel or by contract.</p> <p>This is an implementation activity and will be conducted across the planning area but primarily within the high-intensity burn locations. Specifics to be identified by NEPA process, completed FY2017.</p>
Target Accomplishment:	<p>Planned to treat 10 acres. Specifics (locations, number of acres and miles) to be identified by NEPA process (completed FY2017).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HAB-ENH-TERR (acres) • HAB-ENH-STRM (miles) • S&W-RSRC-IMP (acres) • FOR-VEG-EST (acres) • FP-FUELS-WUI (acres) • INV PLT-NXWD-FED-AC (acres) • T&E ACT-COMPLT (#s)
Monitoring and evaluation:	See monitoring as listed on Table 1. Specifics (protocols, standards, evaluation, etc.) would be identified by NEPA process (completed FY2017).

Project Name: Reforestation
Project Leader Name: Dan Roskopf
Objective: Restore pine (ponderosa and sugar) and incense cedar in burned forest openings which are being taken over by dense stands of small fir, hardwoods, and shrubs.
Project justification: Areas that experience high-severity fire are being overgrown with dense stands of brush and hardwoods. These acres will be planted with pine (sugar and ponderosa). Pine is a shade intolerant, drought tolerant species appropriate to existing conditions and potential conditions under climate change.
Project description: The proposed activity is to plant sugar and ponderosa pine within openings. This is an implementation activity and will be conducted across the planning area but primarily within the high-intensity burn locations. Specifics to be identified by NEPA process (completed FY2017). Implementation planned to be conducted by contract.
Target Accomplishment: Planned to treat 20 acres. Specifics (locations, number of acres and miles) to be identified by NEPA process (completed FY2017). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HAB-ENH-TERR (acres) • S&W-RSRC-IMP (acres) • FOR-VEG-EST (acres) • FP-FUELS-WUI (acres)
Monitoring and evaluation: See monitoring as listed on Table 1. Specifics (protocols, standards, evaluation, etc.) would be identified by NEPA process (completed FY2017).

Project Name:	Wetland Habitat Development
Project Leader Name(s):	Cindy Roberts & JoAnna Arroyo & Oswaldo Angulo
Objective:	Develop wetland and meadow habitat at or near Cottage and Burnt Bridge Creeks.
Project justification:	The highest intensity burn went through suitable California red-legged frog (CRLF) habitat along Cottage and Burnt Bridge Creeks. Sedimentation from the high-intensity burn areas in the Bullards watershed has affected ponded or backwater locations within and along the two creeks. Forest Service and USFWS biologists and hydrologists will work together to identify additional opportunities for wetland habitat development to directly restore the areas affected by the fire or provide refugia habitat from which CRLF would move back into the fire affected areas once conditions there have improved.
Project description:	Proposed activities are to remove sedimentation out of existing ponds, create additional ponds, and to restore meadow and/or meadow potential zones. Implementation will be conducted by Forest Service personnel. This is an implementation activity and will be conducted primarily within the high-intensity burn locations. Specific locations and actions are to be identified by NEPA process completed in FY2017.
Target Accomplishment:	Specifics (locations, number of acres and miles) to be identified by NEPA process (completed FY2017). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HAB-ENH-TERR (acres) • HAB-ENH-STRM (miles) • S&W-RSRC-IMP (acres) • T&E ACT-COMPLT (#s)
Monitoring and evaluation:	See monitoring as listed on Table 1. Specifics (protocols, standards, evaluation, etc.) would be identified by NEPA process (completed FY2017).

Project Name: Water Storage
Project Leader Name(s): Herman Wendell & Jason Vermillion
Objective: Aid in the agency's Land and Resource Management Guidelines for managing high risk hazards by providing a source of water to aid in the suppression of future fires. To aid in the preparedness for and prevention of future fires.
<p>Project justification: The Bullards area is a low-elevation (high temperatures and very dry conditions in summer) site with dense undergrowth (fuels) and therefore prime conditions for a high intensity fire. The Bullards fire area overlaps the previous Pendola fire area. It is very likely that fire will again impact this area.</p> <p>Post fire conditions, standing and fallen dead trees and brush creating heavy surface and ladder fuels, it is highly likely that future fire would be high-intensity fire that puts the other treatments proposed for implementation at risk. Therefore, this water storage infrastructure is needed to protect those investments.</p> <p>A future high-intensity fire could be attacked with increased efficiency and greater fire fighter safety is additional sources of water storage are positioned on the Forest in anticipation of wildland fire.</p>
<p>Project description: Install pairs of 5,000 gallon tanks (10,000 gallon stations) at strategic points within the Bullards fire project area.</p> <p>Implementation will be conducted by contracting or by forest personnel, based on workforce availability.</p> <p>This is an implementation activity and will be conducted within the planning area. Specifics to be determined post NEPA (completed FY2017).</p>
Target Accomplishment: Specifics (locations, numbers of acres and miles) to be identified by NEPA process (completed FY2017).
Monitoring and evaluation: See monitoring as listed on Table 1. Specifics (protocols, standards, evaluation, etc.) would be identified by NEPA process (completed FY2017).

Project Name:	Construct Interpretive Trail
Project Leader Name(s):	Mary Sullivan
Objective: To enhance the recreation opportunities and experience that have been affected by the Bullards fire.	
Project justification: Due to the Bullards fire the Cottage Creek Campground and Day Use Area was destroyed in high-severity fire. Through FERC, the Yuba County Water Agency will be rebuilding the camp ground. By adding interpretive signs at the campground and day use area, and along new trails that take visitors through varying fire severities within the Bullards fire perimeter, an excellent education opportunity will be provided to the public to learn about fire ecology and restoration directly tied to the Bullards fire.	
Project description: Design and construct up to 2 miles of new trail in the Bullards fire area and provide interpretive signage at the campground, day use areas, and along trails through a mix of fire severities to educate visitors about the Bullards fire and restoration projects.	
Target Accomplishment: Specifics (locations, numbers of acres and miles) to be identified by NEPA process (completed FY2018). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CONSTRUCT TRAIL TO STANDARD (miles) • MAINT/ENHANCE REC EXP (PAOT) • PARTNERSHIPS 	
Monitoring and evaluation: See monitoring as listed on Table 1. Specifics (protocols, standards, evaluation, etc.) would be identified by NEPA process (completed FY2017).	

Project Name: Road Sign Replacement
Project Leader Name:Herman Wendell
Objective:Replace road signs that were damaged or lost within the Bullards fire area.
Project justification:Road signs that were damaged or lost as a result of wildfire within the Bullards project area.
Project description:New road signs would be contracted from a vender. Forest engineering crew would install replacement road signs.
Target Accomplishment: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SIGN INSTALL (each)• RIRI-IM
Monitoring and evaluation:N/A